



Electricity Myths

Myth:

Some say that when you turn on a fluorescent light it takes more electricity to charge it up and we would be better off keeping the lighting on all day.

U.S. Army Hawaii policy is to turn off all lights when not in use for more than five minutes.

The idea that lights use extra electricity to start up is a myth. There's no power surge when you turn on a light. Turning the light off always saves electricity, even if it's for just a second and whether they're regular lights or fluorescents.

You might have heard that you wear out your lights quicker by cycling them off and on. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, even though fluorescent lights are more expensive to buy, it is more beneficial to save electricity than it is to extend the useful life of a bulb from reduced use. Therefore, cost of energy saved outweighs the cost of replacing the fluorescent bulbs.

The amount of electricity consumed to turn on a fluorescent light is miniscule. **Therefore, turning off fluorescent lights for more than 5 seconds will save more energy than will be consumed in turning them back on again.**

You can safely turn your lights off every time you leave the room, no matter how short the duration. It always pays to turn them off.

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